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Virtual Test and Training Range

A Logical Range Partnership for the Future

by

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A Review by

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REVIEW

Virtual Test And Training Range
A Logical Range Partnership for the Future

By

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This is a review of the above article which was published in the ITEA Journal, the Journal of the International Test and Evaluation Association, December 1997/January 1998 issue.

In this article the author addresses a very wide-ranging, highly technical, and complex subject in an overview of six pages. Considering the limitations on the length of articles in the ITEA Journal, he provided an excellent summary. However, the subject appears to be too complex for such a short work to provide more than a general understanding of what the Logical Range is and what it will attempt to accomplish.

In the first page and a half, the author provides a very good short summary of why change is needed. The test requirements of the systems envisioned in *Joint Vision 2010*, and the evolving expectations of the customers, will require major changes in the way tests are conducted. Once this requirement is established an on-going effort to address the problems is reviewed.

The proposed solution is a group of four "foundation" programs being funded by the Department of Defense Central Test and Evaluation Investment Program (CTEIP). These are the Test and Training Enabling Architecture (TENA), the Virtual Test and Training Range (VTTR), the Common Display and Processing System (CDAPS), and the Joint Regional Range Complex (JRRC). Together these programs will provide the standards, protocols, procedures, and tools needed to tie the DoD test and training ranges, models, simulations, and test items together for conducting more efficient and cost-effective tests in the future.

The short explanation for each of the "foundation" programs is too brief to provide useful understanding. This becomes evident when the terms are used in later paragraphs to explain how to build a "logical range." The explanation, even with the support of some very complex and detailed figures (see figure 1), is difficult to comprehend other than at the highest level. This same problem continues as the author begins to discuss all of the new tools being developed to facilitate range definition, range setup, range operation, and data analysis. Several new tools are introduced and defined

with only a sentence or two. A more detailed understanding of these tools is needed before the concept of the logical range and how it will operate can be fully appreciated.
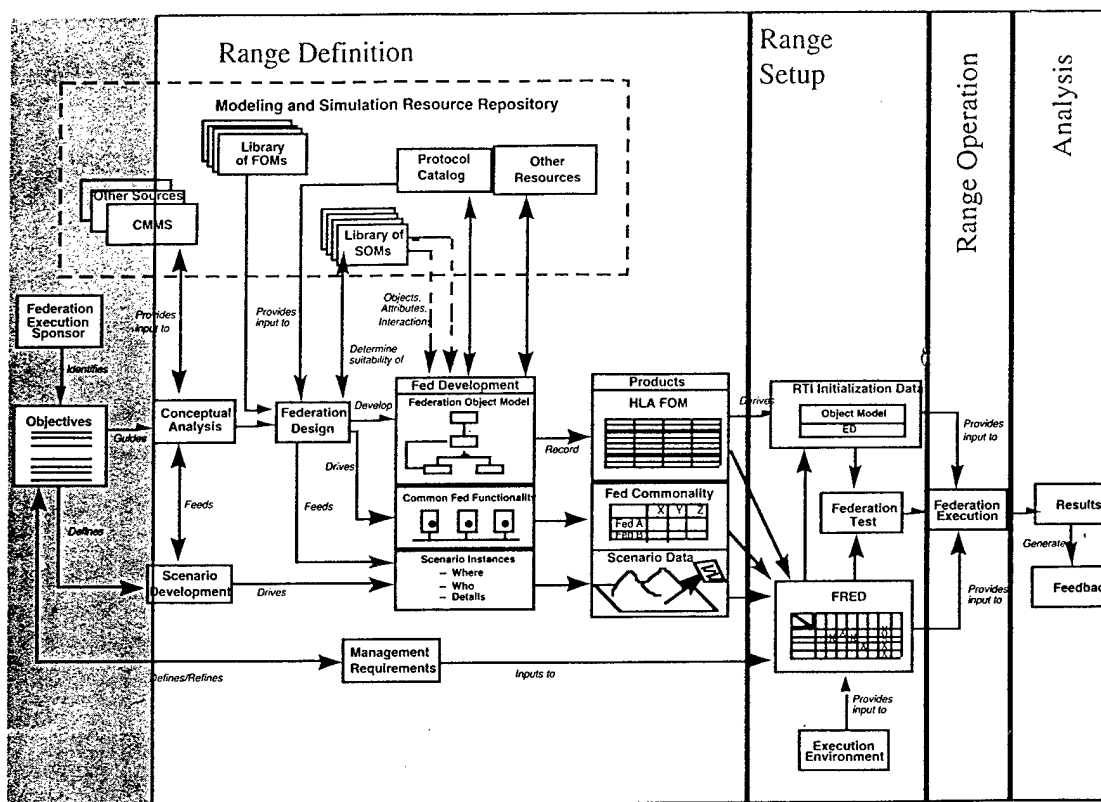

Figure 1

Just before he began to define the foundation programs, the author made a very interesting statement reference the existing range infrastructure. "Traditionally, the focus has been on reducing the *size* of that infrastructure, and the result has been mixed and somewhat frustrating. In the context of *Joint Vision 2010*, it may be more useful to focus on how we can obtain more benefit from that infrastructure by making it more cohesive and reconfigurable than it is today." I believe that the purpose of this paper was to show how the foundation programs will accomplish this cohesiveness and reconfiguability. Unfortunately this wasn't tied back in to the closing after all of the programs, tools, and concepts were defined.

This paper provides a broad overview of the concept of a "logical range." However, too many new terms and concepts are presented with only the absolute minimum of detail. The reader will have difficulty gaining a full appreciation of the larger concept being discussed and the tremendous impact it will have on the future of testing.